

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling at least one operator to control the delivery of an embolic protection device to a position in a patient's vasculature distal to an interventional procedure site for deployment of the embolic protection device, to enable the operator to control the removal of the delivery system from the patient's vasculature for the exchange of the delivery system, and to enable control of the position of a deployed embolic protection device within the patient's vasculature during an exchange of interventional devices, comprising:

a guide wire, including a distal end, adapted to be positioned within the blood vessel and to extend to a position distal to the interventional procedure site, and to include an embolic protection device mounted on the distal end thereof; and

a catheter, including a distal end, wherein the catheter has a lumen therein extending in the catheter to the distal end thereof, and wherein the guide wire and the embolic protection device are adapted to extend in and through the lumen, the catheter and the guide wire are adapted to enable the embolic protection device to be delivered and deployed distal to the interventional procedure site, the catheter including a distal portion which forms a housing for maintaining the embolic protection device in a delivery position and a port in communication with the lumen for enabling the guide wire to exit therefrom and extend therethrough outside and along the catheter, and the catheter includes a manipulation-enabling element for enabling at least one operator to manipulate the guide wire and the catheter independently so as to enable removal of the catheter from the patient's vasculature.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1,~~ A system for enabling at least one operator to control the delivery of an embolic protection device to a position in a patient's vasculature distal to an interventional procedure site for deployment of the embolic protection device, to enable the operator to control the removal of the delivery system from the patient's vasculature for the exchange of the delivery system, and to enable control of the position of a deployed embolic protection device within the patient's vasculature during an exchange of interventional devices, comprising:

a guide wire, including a distal end, adapted to be positioned within the blood vessel and to extend to a position distal to the interventional procedure site, and to include an embolic protection device mounted on the distal end thereof; and

a catheter, including a distal end, wherein the catheter has a lumen therein extending in the catheter to the distal end thereof, and wherein the guide wire and the embolic protection device are adapted to extend in and through the lumen, the catheter and the guide wire are adapted to enable the embolic protection device to be delivered and deployed distal to the interventional procedure site, and the catheter includes a manipulation-enabling element for enabling at least one operator to manipulate the guide wire and the catheter independently so as to enable removal of the catheter from the patient's vasculature, wherein the catheter further includes a mandrel extending therein, adapted to support the catheter, to enable the catheter to maintain a clinically acceptable profile and flexibility during delivery and removal thereof through the patient's vasculature, the mandrel having a shapeable distal tip which allows the catheter to be steered through the patient's vasculature.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A system for enabling at least one operator to control the delivery of an embolic protection device to a position in a patient's vasculature distal to an interventional procedure site for deployment of the embolic protection device, to enable the operator to control the removal of the delivery system from the patient's vasculature for the exchange of the delivery system, and to

enable control of the position of a deployed embolic protection device within the patient's vasculature during an exchange of interventional devices, comprising:

a guide wire, including a distal end, adapted to be positioned within the blood vessel and to extend to a position distal to the interventional procedure site, and to include an embolic protection device mounted on the distal end thereof; and

a catheter, including a distal end, wherein the catheter has a lumen therein extending in the catheter to the distal end thereof, and wherein the guide wire and the embolic protection device are adapted to extend in and through the lumen, the catheter and the guide wire are adapted to enable the embolic protection device to be delivered and deployed distal to the interventional procedure site, and the catheter includes a manipulation-enabling element for enabling at least one operator to manipulate the guide wire and the catheter independently so as to enable removal of the catheter from the patient's vasculature, wherein the catheter includes a tip, at the distal end thereof, adapted to be shapeable by the operator, to enable the operator to direct the shapeable tip for movement thereof in the patient's vasculature.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a recovery system for enabling the at least one operator to control the recovery of the embolic protection device, from the delivered and deployed position thereof, for the exchange of the recovery system.

5. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 2, wherein the manipulation-enabling element comprises a projection proximate the distal end of the catheter, adapted to communicate with the lumen, and to enable a minor portion of the guide wire to extend in the lumen, and a major portion of the guide wire to extend outside the catheter therethrough.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the ~~catheter~~ includes a distal end portion ~~[[ extending]]~~ extends from the distal end to a location

spaced from the distal end, a proximal end, and a distal-proximal portion, extending from the distal end portion to the proximal end, and the manipulation-enabling element extends along the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.

7. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the recovery system includes the catheter, and the distal end of the catheter includes a tip, adapted to be shapeable by the operator, to enable the operator to direct the shapeable tip for movement thereof in the patient's vasculature, and wherein the shapeable tip is further adapted to be expandable to enable the capture of the embolic protection device.

8. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 5, wherein the projection is adapted to enable the catheter and the guide wire to be manipulated by the operator.

9. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 5, wherein the catheter comprises an inner catheter, and the system further comprises an outer catheter, adapted to extend about the inner catheter and to be extendable in the distal direction by the operator so as to enclose the embolic protection device for enabling recovery thereof.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the manipulation-enabling element is adapted to enable the guide wire to be peeled away from and extend outside the catheter and along the distal-proximal portion thereof.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the manipulation-enabling element comprises a slit extending along the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the manipulation-enabling element is adapted to enable a minor portion of the guide wire to extend in the lumen, and a major portion of the guide wire to extend outside the catheter therethrough.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the slit is adapted to enable the catheter and the guide wire to be manipulated by the operator, so as to enable the guide wire to exit from and extend therethrough, and outside and along the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.

14-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A delivery system for placing an embolic protection device disposed on a guide wire in a body vessel, comprising:

an elongate catheter having a distal end and a proximal end, a distal end portion and a distal-proximal portion extending from the distal end portion to the proximal end, the catheter having a lumen extending therethrough which is adapted to receive a guide wire and an embolic protection device disposed on the guide wire, the catheter having a port opening located proximate to the distal end portion of the catheter adapted to enable the guide wire to extend through the distal end portion and exit through the port opening, the distal portion forming a housing for storing the embolic protection device in a collapsed, delivery position.

33. (New) The delivery system of claim 32, wherein the catheter includes a manipulation-enabling element which extends along the length of the distal-proximal portion of the catheter to allow the guide wire to be removed from the portion of the lumen that extends along the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.

34. (New) The delivery system of claim 33, wherein the manipulation-enabling element is adapted to allow the distal-proximal portion of the catheter to be peeled away from the guide wire.

35. (New) The delivery system of claim 34, wherein the manipulation-enabling element is a weakened region in the catheter which extends along the length of the distal-proximal portion.

36. (New) The delivery system of claim 33, wherein the manipulation-enabling element is a slit which extends along the length of the distal-proximal portion.

37. (New) The delivery system of claim 36, wherein the slit extends along the distal-proximal portion and terminates at the port opening.

38. (New) The delivery system of claim 36, further including a handle at the proximal end of the catheter.

39. (New) The delivery system of claim 33, further including a handle at the proximal end of the catheter which includes a lumen for receiving the guide wire and a slot in communication with the lumen for allowing the guide wire to be removed from the handle.

40. (New) The delivery system of claim 32, further including a mandrel extending through the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.

41. (New) The delivery system of claim 40, wherein the mandrel has a shapeable distal end which can be bent into a desired shape to allow the catheter to be steered through tortuous anatomy independent from the guide wire.

42. (New) The delivery system of claim 32, wherein the distal end of the catheter includes a shapeable member which can be bent into a particular shape to allow the catheter to be steered through tortuous anatomy.

43. (New) The delivery system of claim 42, further including a mandrel extending through the distal-proximal portion of the catheter.